

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08595 101754Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W
-----062069 110419Z /13
R 101703Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2667

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PASS TO ICA/EU FOR ELLY

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT, PFOR
SUBJ: VISIT OF SENATOR FRANCO GRASSINI (DC)

1. SENATOR GRASSINI WILL BE IN THE UNITED STATES TO TEACH
A SUMMER COURSE IN ECONOMICS AT BOSTON COLLEGE. HE EXPECTS TO
BE IN THE US FROM THE END OF MAY UNTIL EARLY JULY. DURING THAT
TIME, GRASSINI WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE DEPARTMENT AND MAKE OTHER
POLITICAL CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON. MORE IMPORTANTLY HE IS PREPARED
TO MAKE A SERIES OF BRIEF TRIPS OUT OF BOSTON TO TALK TO AMERICAN
AUDIENCES (UNIVERSITY OR OTHERWISE) ABOUT THE ITALIAN POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC SCENE. HE WOULD WELCOME OUR SUGGESTIONS AND
ASSISTANCE IN FINDING APPROPRIATE AUDIENCES, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE.
FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE IS ALSO PREPARED TO COME A WEEK EARLY AT THE
END OF MAY IF THE TIMING COULD BE BETTER.

2. WE THINK THAT GRASSINI COULD PROVIDE SOME BALANCE IN
THE PICTURE BEING PAINTED BY RECENT ITALIAN VISITORS. HE COULD
PROVIDE THE LONG MISSING ELEMENT -- A MODERN DC SPOKESMAN WHO IS
FLUENT IN ENGLISH. GRASSINI IS A FIRST TERM SENATOR (ELECTED
FROM SALERNO; LIVES IN ROME). HE DOES COME OUT OF THE
TRADITIONAL PARTY BUREAUCRACY. HE IS ACTIVE IN AREL (POLICY
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RESEARCH GROUP ORGANIZED BY A GROUP OF DC SENATORS INCLUDING
AGNELLI, ANDREATTA AND LOMBARDINI). AND MILLE. BEFORE ENTERING
POLITICS HE WORKED AS A PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS (PERUGIA) AND AS
A BUSINESS (IRI, AMONG OTHERS) AND GOVERNMENT (GEPI) EXECUTIVE.
APART FROM ECONOMIC SUBJECTS, GRASSINI IS MORE THAN WILLING TO
TALK ABOUT ITALIAN POLITICS AND ITS PROBLEMS. POLITICALLY, HE
IS NOT IDENTIFIED WITH ANY OF THE TRADITIONAL FACTIONS BUT IS

PROBABLY SLIGHTLY TO THE RIGHT OF THE CENTER OF THE DC PARTY.

3. ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC: GRASSNINI DID GRADUATE WORK IN ECONOMICS AT LONDON SCHOOL AND HARVARD MIT, WHERE HE WAS A HARKNESS FELLOW. HE IS FIRST COUSIN OF CARABINIERE GENERAL GRASSINI, HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S NEW INTELLIGENCE UNIT, SISDE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S AND ICA'S SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMMING WOULD BE APPRECIATED.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 may 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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